



Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

Bulk billing incentives in general practice: patient benefits

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Key messages

- General practices across Australia can now register for the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program (BBPIP). Registered practices are required to display Medicare Bulk Billing Practice signage to indicate to patients they are fully bulk billing.
- The BBPIP commenced on 1 November 2025, alongside the Australian Government expanded eligibility for existing Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) bulk billing incentives, which now apply to all Medicare-eligible patients.
- BBPIP provides an additional quarterly 12.5% incentive payment on Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) benefits paid from eligible bulk billed services, split 50/50 between the GP and the practice.
- From the 1st of November, for the first time, bulk billing incentives will be paid to GPs for every Medicare-eligible patient they bulk bill. Previously these incentives were only available to children under 16 and concession card holders.
- This will mean 9 out of 10 GP visits will be bulk billed by 2030, boosting the number of fully bulk billed practices to around 4,800 nationally - triple the current number
- Patients will benefit from the Government's support for bulk billed services through increased access to, and affordability of, GP services.
- Patients and families will save hundreds of dollars a year in out-of-pocket costs.

Building on previous investments

- This measure builds on the Government's \$3.5 billion investment to triple the value of bulk billing incentive items, for children, pensioners and Commonwealth concession card holders which commenced on 1 November 2023.
- This earlier investment has already delivered tangible benefits for children, pensioners and Commonwealth concession card holders. Since its introduction, GPs have bulk billed more than 11 million children, pensioners and Commonwealth concession card holders.
- The GP bulk billing rate for these groups rose to 92.1% in the June quarter of 2025—up from 89.5% in the same quarter of 2023, before the increased incentives. These improvements demonstrate the positive impact of the Government's investment in making primary care more accessible and affordable for those who need it most.

Q&As

What does bulk billing (only) mean?

Bulk billing means you don't have to pay for your medical service from a health professional. The provider charges the Government instead and they accept the Medicare benefit as full payment for the service.

A patient cannot be asked to pay an additional charge for a service which is bulk billed.

Medicare Bulk Billing Practices are required to bulk bill all Medicare-eligible patients, including eligible DVA patients, for eligible MBS services. They are also required to register on Healthdirect as 'bulk billing only'.

Practices may use the free text field when registering in HealthDirect to include further information about the services they provide and whether any services that are not eligible will attract a patient fee.

When will we expect to see an increase in bulk billing rates?

Patients are expected to see immediate benefits from the investment to expand eligibility for MBS bulk billing incentives (BBIs) to all Medicare-eligible patients from 1 November 2025. This investment will support greater access to bulk billed healthcare services for all Australians.

How can I find a bulk billed service?

Medicare Bulk Billing Practices must register as a bulk billing practice in Healthdirect's National Health Services Directory (NHSD) and display Medicare Bulk Billing Practice signage on-site.

Patients will be able to confidently search on Healthdirect for practices in their area listed as '**bulk billing only**'.

Participating practices are required to display Medicare Bulk Billing Practice signage at their premises, making it easy for patients to identify participating practices and navigate services confidently.

Signage increases public awareness of where bulk billing services are available, helping patients make informed decisions about accessing affordable care.

How do I know if my practice/GP will bulk bill?

Medicare Bulk Billing Practices must register as a bulk billing practice in Healthdirect NHSD and display Medicare Bulk Billing Practice signage on-site.

Patients will be able to confidently search on Healthdirect for practices in their area listed as '**bulk billing only**' or by signage displayed at their general practice.

What services will be bulk billed at my Medicare Bulk Billing Practice?

Medicare Bulk Billing Practices are required to bulk bill all eligible services for all Medicare-eligible patients.

Eligible services include the most common GP services such as time-tiered consultation items, health assessments, mental health treatment items, and chronic disease management items.

If unsure, patients are encouraged to contact their practice to confirm whether they will be bulk billed for a particular service.

What if my GP hasn't joined a Medicare Bulk Billing Practice, can I still be bulk billed?

Yes. All providers and practices can claim relevant MBS BBI items for any Medicare-eligible patient they bulk bill.

This investment will support greater access to bulk billed GP services.

All GPs at Medicare Bulk Billing Practices must bulk bill all eligible services for all Medicare-eligible patients.

What do I have to do to be eligible for a bulk billed service?

Patients do not have to do anything to be eligible for bulk billed services. All Medicare eligible patients can be bulk billed for the Medicare services they receive. Medicare Bulk Billing Practices are required to bulk bill all Medicare-eligible patients, including eligible DVA patients, for BBPIP eligible MBS services.

Do I have to register for MyMedicare?

No. Patients do not need to be registered with MyMedicare to receive a bulk billed service. Practices are required to be MyMedicare registered practices to become a Medicare Bulk Billing Practice.

I don't have a Medicare card, can I be bulk billed?

If a patient's Medicare eligibility cannot be determined or the patient does not have a Medicare Card Number at the time of service, the practice may not be able to bulk bill. If this situation arises, you should discuss the options with your practice.

If the patient was eligible for Medicare at the time of the service, they can make a Medicare claim as per existing Medicare claiming arrangements at a later time. Gap payments may still occur for patients, and the department cannot require a practice to charge at the rebate level.

Patients who may not have a Medicare Card Number include newborn babies, newly arrived migrants or overseas visitors under a reciprocal healthcare agreement.

Find out more about Medicare <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare>.

I am a DVA patient can I be bulk billed at a Medicare Bulk Billing Practice?

Yes. Medicare Bulk Billing Practices are required to bulk bill all Medicare-eligible patients, including eligible DVA patients, for eligible MBS services.